



The Pipeline

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Governor Announces Instruction Manual for New Parents

State and KHA partner to provide 50,000 parenting guides and videos

Governor and Mrs. Patton presented new parents at Frankfort's Regional Medical Center March 12 with a comprehensive parenting guide and video that will be made available statewide to all new parents beginning April 1. The materials are part of the *Healthy Babies* initiative and are the result of a partnership between the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development's KIDS NOW program and the Kentucky Hospital Association.

"Parenting can be a daunting experience, especially for new parents," said Governor Patton. "Both the guide and the video provide important parenting tips along with resources that are available to help them raise healthy, happy children."

The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) contributed \$50,000, which was added to a donation from the I Am Your Child Foundation to provide 50,000 single videos, *The First Years Last Forever*, to all new Kentucky parents. The state produced *The Kentucky Guide for Families*. Both will be distributed to all new parents through the KHA hospital system.

The guide provides useful information for every age of a child's development. Topics include breastfeeding, handling toddlers, children with disabilities, family literacy, child health and safety, discipline and school readiness. It also provides parents with a complete list of available resources.

The twenty-eight minute video-tape reinforces the vital importance of the relationship between a caregiver and child in the critical first years of life.



The parent guide and an additional six-video set funded by the state are being distributed to local libraries and family

and child service organizations, such as Family Resource Youth Service Centers, Head Start programs and county extension agents among many others. Both English and Spanish versions of the video set are available, which covers maternal and child health, brain development, early literacy, positive discipline, and high quality early childhood education.

"We know that learning is a lifelong process that begins even before birth," said the Governor. "Healthy mothers have healthier children, informed parents have healthier children, and healthier children have a better shot at being successful their entire adult life."

For more information, contact Terri Giltner or Kim Townley (502) 564-2611 in the Governor's Office.

The ABCs of EAL



Now that most Cabinet staff members have completed the Everyone a Leader skill-building sessions, it doesn't hurt to have small reminders of the lessons we studied. "The ABCs of EAL" features tips that can help us improve our relationships with coworkers and our service to the families of Kentucky.

This week: F

The **five-step model** for problem solving can help you next time you're stumped

- Define the problem.
- Assess the problem.
- Find the solution.
- Plan the solution.
- Implementation and Evaluation.

Grants Support Foster Children as They Gain Independence

By Mike Jennings



The Cabinet for Families and Children is funding two initiatives aimed at making sure that young people who leave foster care for life as independent adults have someone they can turn to in those first months and years on their own.

One project has a Jefferson County focus, while the other is intended to help foster children statewide. Both are funded with federal dollars provided through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, which helps equip young people in foster care with the tools to make the most of their lives.

In Jefferson County, the Cabinet is sponsoring Kentucky's Youth United, which will mentor current and former foster youth, equip them with leadership skills and mobilize them to act on issues that affect them. The project will also educate the public and policy-makers about the needs and concerns of youth in care.

Julie Padgett, the group's executive director, said it is working on a "Bill of Rights" for foster children.

Cabinet funding for Kentucky's Youth United is \$40,000. For more information about its meetings and other activities, contact Padgett by telephone at (502) 895-1601; by mail at P.O. Box 6614, Louisville, KY 40206-0614; or by email at kypadgett@aol.com.

A separate, statewide Foster Youth Alumni Group, headed by a former foster child, will hold several upcoming meetings for current and former foster children.

Like Kentucky's Youth United, this group will provide a forum for current and former foster youth to educate others about their needs. It will also seek to change negative stereotypes about foster children, develop a mentoring program and create a speaker's bureau.

The group is sponsored by Ed Necco & Associates, a private provider of foster care and related services, and headed by George Duvall, who grew up as a foster child in Kentucky. Cabinet funding for the group's activities is \$123,246.

For more information about Foster Youth Alumni meetings or other activities statewide, contact Duvall by telephone at (859) 264-8796; by mail at Ed Necco & Associates, 503 Darby Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40509; or by email at georged@necco.org.

The two groups' work will expand on the state's ongoing efforts to help children in foster care prepare for life on their own after they leave care, usually at age 18. They are taught how to manage money, how to find and keep a job and a place to live, how to access community resources and how to continue their education.

For more information about state services aimed at helping foster children make a successful transition to independent living, call Mike Yocum or Fawn Conley at (502) 564-2147.

Bowl for Kids' Sake Teams Still Need Pledges

By Anya Armes Weber



Now is your last chance to help Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass in its Bowl for Kids' Sake.

The Cabinet's 36 teams take to the lanes this Friday, March 15, and you can lend your support by sponsoring a bowler. Your pledge will give a boost to BBBS, which pairs adults with children ages 6-13 who are from single-parent homes. The time these "big" and "little" siblings spend together each week benefits both of them.

Call Eboney Mayewski in the Office of Performance Enhancement at 564-0068 if you need to find a bowler.

Good luck to all the Cabinet's bowlers!

Rob Underhill is presented with his CPPB certificate by Godwin Onodu, Assistant Director of the Division of Procurement Services.



Underhill Certified Professional Public Buyer

By Jackie Watkins, OPS - Purchasing

Congratulations to Rob Underhill on achieving the distinction of becoming a Certified Professional Public Buyer. Mr. Underhill is the Purchasing Officer Supervisor of the Purchasing Branch within the Division of Procurement Services. He transferred to the Cabinet for Families and Children from the Finance and Administration Cabinet on February 1, 2002.

On March 4th, 2002, Rob Underhill received notification that he had achieved the certification of a Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB). Obtaining a CPPB designation demonstrates a standard of competency in the public purchasing profession. This certification indicates to the public that, having mastered a body of knowledge, one can make sound decisions that reflect maximum value for the taxpayer's dollar.

The Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC), the issuer of the CPPB designation, is accredited by the International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management.

Rob deserves congratulations since achieving this professional certification requires hours of extensive study and preparation and only a few accomplish this feat; the failure rate is approximately 40 %.

His certification is also a great benefit to the Cabinet for Families and Children since our small purchasing authority which is delegated from Finance is based on the training of our purchasing staff.

Great job Rob!!!